

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More specifically, in the Office Action Claims 3-6 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that early indication of the allowable subject matter.

In view of the indication of the allowable subject matter, rejected Claims 1 and 2 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Withdrawn Claims 11-20 are also canceled without prejudice. Further, Claim 3 is amended to be rewritten in independent form, and thus now recites subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. The other pending Claims 4-10 now depend from allowable independent Claim 3. Thus, the claims pending in this application are believed to be allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
I:\ATTYSNS\24's\241677\241677US.AM.DOC